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Herman Schmidt House
Route 2 (Overton Road)
Boonville vicinity
Cooper County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1376

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HERMAN SCHMIDT HOUSE

HABS No. MO-1376

Location: Route 2 (Overton Road), Boonville vicinity, Cooper County, Missouri

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The following information was recorded by Alexander Piaget and Charles van Ravenswaay at the time the photograph was taken:

Horizontal log section built ca. 1840. Half-timber additions ca. 1850.

Hermann Schmidt was born in Saxony in 1821. He emigrated to Cooper County with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick August Schmidt, about 1837. They acquired the "Locust Grove" farm. A small log cabin, 16 by 20 feet, later used as a chicken house, was on the farm of which only six acres had been cleared. This log house served as their home for many years. Later the two-story hewn log house was built, enlarged by half-timbered additions in 1850. Also, the exterior was weatherboarded at this time.

At the time of its demolition in 1962-1963, the house had survived in nearly its original condition. It was a one-and-one half-story farm house set on a limestone foundation with a partial cellar. Tin roof with raised seams. Interior plastered, and heated by stoves. On the first floor a large, almost square, center hall served as a passageway through the house and provided access into the five rooms opening from it. The stairway to the upper floor was at the end of the hall facing the front entrance. The hall was sometimes used as a sitting room and a dining room when family gatherings were held.

The walnut doors shown here measure 71" high and 34 1/2" wide. They were used as interior doors, opening into the principal rooms, with board-and-batten doors used for the other entrances. The hinges used on these doors are similar to the handwrought hinges found in the Herman Garlichs parsonage, Femme Osage, St. Charles Co., Mo., dating from the 1930s.

An unidentified early resident of the house was a German immigrant brass- and locksmith. Many of his tools, completed and partially completed examples, were found in the attic and are now owned by the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis. These include brass handles for door latches, hardware for furniture including bail pulls, and heads of canes. Among the household items which the Schmidt immigrants brought with them were various chests, including one of pine with a painted decoration showing a center panel with a basket of flowers; an elaborately woven coverlet in the Jacquard technique; and a pair of family portraits drawn with a crayon in a mahogany frame of the Biedermeier period. (The portraits had been destroyed by water damage.)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Oscar Schmidt, present owner and member of original Schmidt family.

W.F. Johnson, History of Cooper County, Missouri, Topeka-Cleveland: Historical Publishing Company, 1919. 495, p. 617-618.

Cooper County Circuit Court, Minute Book, Vol. IV (Nov. Term 1840), p. 90.

PROJECT INFORMATION

The Piaget-van Ravenswaay Survey consists of a number of photographs, primarily of sites and structures in Missouri, which were taken before 1938 by Alexander Piaget and after that by Paul Piaget, both in conjunction with Charles van Ravenswaay. Photographs of buildings were incorporated into the HABS collection in 1985 by Laura Rupp and in 1986 by Deborah Fulton, HABS historians. A master list is available in the [REDACTED] records for MO-1800.